

# WEEKLY-Current Affairs



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Nawaf Salam Appointed Lebanon's New Prime Minister

Nawaf Salam has been appointed as Lebanon's new Prime Minister, marking a pivotal moment in the country's political landscape. A seasoned diplomat, academic, and former judge at the International Court of Justice, Salam brings a wealth of experience to the role. His appointment comes amid Lebanon's ongoing economic and political crises, raising hopes for effective governance and reform. Salam has emphasized the importance of unity, transparency, and international cooperation in addressing the nation's pressing challenges. His leadership is expected to focus on restoring stability, economic recovery, and rebuilding trust in Lebanon's institutions.

#### Foot notes:

- Salam, a 71-year-old jurist and diplomat, was appointed by President Joseph Aoun after securing the backing of a significant majority in parliament, with 84 out of 128 members supporting him.
- He will be tasked with forming a government and addressing the country's deepening economic crisis, which has been exacerbated by a two-year political deadlock.
- Salam's appointment is seen as a blow to Hezbollah, which had supported caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati for another term, and reflects growing domestic and international support for political reform in Lebanon.
- As a renowned diplomat and jurist, Salam brings a wealth of experience to the role, having served as Lebanon's ambassador to the UN and president of the International Court of Justice.
- His reformist credentials and international experience offer a pathway toward governance renewal, but he will face significant challenges in forming a government and addressing the country's sectarian divisions.
- Salam's ability to bridge divides between Hezbollah-aligned groups and reformist factions will be crucial in determining whether Lebanon can break free from its cycle of political paralysis and economic decline.

# President Zoran Milanovic of Croatia re-elected for five year term

Zoran Milanović has been re-elected as the President of Croatia, securing a second five-year term. Known for his progressive policies and straightforward approach, Milanović's leadership has been marked by efforts to strengthen Croatia's economy and its standing in the European Union. His re-election reflects widespread public support for his vision of modernization and reforms. Milanović has pledged to prioritize economic growth, healthcare improvement, and environmental sustainability during his new term. As Croatia navigates regional and global challenges, his leadership will be pivotal in shaping the nation's future trajectory.



- Milanovic's opponent, Dragan Primorac, received nearly 26% of the vote, making it a decisive victory for the incumbent president.
- The first round of the presidential election was held on December 29, 2024, where Milanovic won 49.1% of the votes, necessitating a second round on January 12, 2025.
- Milanovic's re-election is a significant development in Croatian politics, and he will continue to serve as the president for the next five years.
- The presidential election in Croatia is a notable event, and Milanovic's victory has been widely reported.
- With his re-election, Milanovic is expected to continue his policies and work towards the development of Croatia.

#### Sao Tome and Principe PM Resigns

The Prime Minister of São Tomé and Príncipe has resigned, creating a significant shift in the nation's political landscape. The resignation comes amid ongoing political and economic challenges facing the country. This decision has sparked discussions on the stability and future direction of the island nation. The President is now expected to consult with political stakeholders to appoint a new Prime Minister. The transition will be closely monitored as São Tomé and Príncipe navigates this period of change.

#### Foot notes:

- She was appointed as the new Prime Minister just a few days ago, following the president's decision to dissolve the previous government.
- Amado Vaz submitted her resignation to the president, stating that her continued leadership would not contribute to the success of public policies and the harmonious development of Sao Tome and Principe.
- The president has since appointed a new Prime Minister, Americo D'Oliveira dos Ramos, who previously served as the governor of the country's central bank.
- The resignation comes amid a period of political turmoil in Sao Tome and Principe, with the previous government being dissolved and the president facing opposition from various factions.
- Amado Vaz's resignation is seen as a significant development in the country's politics, and it remains to be seen how the new Prime Minister will navigate the complex landscape.

# Japan Breaks Tourism Record in 2024 with 36.9 Million Visitors

Japan achieved a historic milestone in 2024 by welcoming 36.9 million tourists, setting a new tourism record. The increase in visitors highlights Japan's global appeal and its efforts to promote tourism. Key attractions such as Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hokkaido continue to draw travelers worldwide. Additionally, large-scale events and cultural festivals significantly contributed to the record-breaking numbers. The achievement underscores Japan's position as one of the top destinations for international travellers.



#### **Foot notes:**

- The country's tourism industry has seen a significant surge, with a 47.1% increase in visitor numbers compared to the previous year, thanks to a favorable weak yen and strong global travel demand.
- December 2024 alone saw a record-breaking 3.49 million visitors, the highest monthly total ever recorded, with average spending per visitor rising 6.8% year on year to 227,242 yen.
- China led the spending with around 20% of the total, followed by other countries like the US, South Korea, and Taiwan, contributing to a total inbound spending of 8.14 trillion yen.
- The Japanese government has set ambitious targets, aiming to attract 60 million annual visitors and 15 trillion yen in spending by 2030, and this record-breaking year is a significant step towards achieving those goals.
- The tourism industry is playing a pivotal role in boosting Japan's economy, with increased flights, new initiatives, and a series of events and festivals contributing to the growth.
- This achievement is a testament to Japan's appeal as a destination for both business and leisure travellers, with its unique culture, rich history, and world-class amenities making it an attractive choice for visitors from around the world.

# STATE NEWS

# Senior IPS officer Vijay Kumar appointed as the new Special Commissioner of Delhi Police

Senior IPS officer Vijay Kumar has been appointed as the new Special Commissioner of Delhi Police. Known for his extensive experience and leadership in law enforcement, Kumar is expected to play a pivotal role in strengthening the city's security and policing efforts. His appointment comes at a time when the Delhi Police is focusing on modernizing its operations and enhancing public safety. Kumar's expertise will be crucial in tackling the evolving challenges faced by the capital's law enforcement. His leadership is anticipated to bring strategic improvements to the functioning of the Delhi Police.

- He will be responsible for overseeing various aspects of policing in the national capital, including law and order, traffic management, and crime prevention.
- As a senior IPS officer, Vijay Kumar has held several key positions in the past, demonstrating his capabilities and expertise in policing.
- His appointment is expected to bring a new perspective and approach to the Delhi Police, focusing on community policing and citizen-centric services.
- Vijay Kumar will work closely with other senior officers, including the Commissioner of Police, to ensure effective policing and maintain public trust.



- His experience and leadership skills will be invaluable in addressing the complex challenges faced by the Delhi Police, from managing crowds and traffic to combating crime and terrorism.
- With his appointment, the Delhi Police is poised to become more efficient, responsive, and citizen-friendly, making the national capital a safer and more secure place to live and work.

#### Varanasi division won Sub Junior Girls Hockey Competition

The Varanasi division emerged victorious in the Sub Junior Girls Hockey Competition, showcasing exceptional talent and teamwork. Their players displayed remarkable skill and determination throughout the tournament, defeating strong opponents in a thrilling final. The victory is a testament to the region's growing focus on nurturing young sporting talent. Coaches and supporters lauded the team's effort and strategic play, which secured their place as champions. This achievement is expected to inspire more young athletes from the division to pursue hockey passionately.

#### **Foot notes:**

- The team demonstrated exceptional skill and teamwork throughout the tournament, outshining their opponents with impressive wins.
- Varanasi division's victory is a testament to the growing talent and dedication of young hockey players in the region, with many of them showing great promise for future competitions.
- The Sub Junior Girls Hockey Competition has been a great platform for these young athletes to showcase their abilities and gain valuable experience, helping to shape the next generation of hockey stars.
- The competition saw fierce rivalry among various teams, but Varanasi division's consistent performance and strategic gameplay ultimately led them to the top spot.
- This win is not only a proud moment for the team but also a significant achievement for the Varanasi division, highlighting their commitment to nurturing and supporting young hockey talent.

# Haryana's men's Kabaddi team won gold medal in 50th Junior National Kabaddi Championship

Haryana's men's Kabaddi team clinched the gold medal at the 50th Junior National Kabaddi Championship with a stellar performance. The team displayed exceptional coordination, agility, and resilience throughout the tournament, defeating formidable opponents in the final match. Their victory underscores Haryana's dominance in kabaddi, a sport deeply rooted in the state's culture. The players dedicated their win to their coaches and supporters, whose guidance and encouragement played a vital role in their success. This achievement further cements Haryana's reputation as a hub for nurturing kabaddi talent in India.



- The team defeated Uttarakhand in the final with a convincing score of 51-21, showcasing their exceptional skills and teamwork.
- The women's team also performed well, securing the silver medal with a close margin of 45-44 in their final match.
- Cabinet Minister Krishan Lal Panwar congratulated the players on their achievements, praising their hard work and dedication.
- The championship was held at Roshnabad Stadium in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, and saw participation from various teams across the country.
- The win has elevated Haryana's status in kabaddi, and the team's success is a testament to the state's commitment to nurturing young talent in the sport.
- The players' determination and teamwork have paid off, and their victory is an inspiration to aspiring kabaddi players in the state.



## Senior IAS officer Prashant Kumar Singh will be New Chief Secretary of Manipur

Senior IAS officer Prashant Kumar Singh has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Manipur. A seasoned administrator, Singh brings extensive experience in governance and policy implementation to his new role. His appointment comes at a crucial time, with a focus on addressing developmental challenges and ensuring administrative efficiency in the state. Singh is expected to prioritize initiatives aimed at fostering socio-economic growth, enhancing infrastructure, and maintaining peace and stability. His leadership is anticipated to strengthen governance and drive inclusive progress across Manipur.

- He's a senior IAS officer with a wealth of experience, having served as the Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy earlier.
- Singh belongs to the Manipur cadre, which makes him a great fit for the role.
- As the new Chief Secretary, he'll be responsible for overseeing the administration of the state and implementing key policies.
- His appointment is a significant development for Manipur, which has been dealing with its own set of challenges.
- Singh's experience in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will likely come in handy as he navigates the complexities of state administration.



• He's expected to bring a fresh perspective and new ideas to the role, which could be just what Manipur needs to move forward.

#### Kerala Blasters secure a 3-2 victory against Odisha FC in a thrilling match

Kerala Blasters secured a thrilling 3-2 victory against Odisha FC in a recent match, showcasing their determination and skill on the field. The game kept fans on the edge of their seats as both teams put up a spirited fight. Kerala Blasters displayed remarkable teamwork and resilience to clinch the win. The match highlighted the competitive nature of the league and the growing excitement among football enthusiasts. Odisha FC also gave a strong performance, making it a memorable encounter for the spectators.

#### **Foot notes:**

- The match was played at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi, with Odisha FC taking the lead in the 4th minute through Jerry Mawihmingthanga.
- Kerala Blasters FC equalized in the 60th minute with a goal from Kwame Peprah, and then took the lead in the 73rd minute through Jesus Jimenez.
- Odisha FC leveled the scores again in the 80th minute with a goal from Dori, but Kerala Blasters FC secured the win with Sadaoui's late goal.
- The win takes Kerala Blasters FC to 8th place in the standings with 20 points from 16 matches, while Odisha FC remains in 7th place.
- Kerala Blasters FC will next play NorthEast United FC on January 18, while Odisha FC will face Bengaluru FC on January 22.

## General V.K. Singh sworn in as the Governor of Mizoram

General V.K. Singh has officially taken oath as the Governor of Mizoram, bringing his extensive military and administrative expertise to the role. Known for his distinguished career in the Indian Army and his tenure in public service, his appointment is expected to bolster governance in the state. The swearing-in ceremony marked a significant moment for Mizoram, as it welcomes a leader with vast experience in national and international affairs. As Governor, General Singh is likely to focus on fostering development and strengthening the state's ties with the central government. His leadership is anticipated to contribute positively to Mizoram's progress and regional stability.

- He was appointed by President Droupadi Murmu, and his experience as a former Chief of Army Staff and Minister of State for External Affairs will likely shape his approach to governance in Mizoram.
- Singh's background in the Indian Army is impressive, having served as the 24th Chief of Army Staff from 2010 to 2012, and he's also a former Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways.



- As Governor, he'll play a crucial role in promoting development and stability in Mizoram, and his experience in handling complex situations will be valuable in this context.
- Singh has also been involved in various initiatives, including Operation Raahat, a rescue mission to evacuate Indian citizens from Yemen during the 2015 crisis, which earned him praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- With his diverse experience in defence, politics, and governance, General V.K. Singh is well-equipped to take on the challenges of being the Governor of Mizoram, and his appointment is seen as a significant development for the state.

# **About Mizoram:** Capital: Aizawl

Chief Minister: Lalduhoma

Formation: 1987

# DEFENCE NEWS

# **Indian Army Conducts Exercise 'Devil Strike'**

The Indian Army recently carried out a high-intensity military drill named 'Devil Strike,' aimed at testing its strategic readiness and operational capabilities. The exercise involved complex maneuvers and showcased the army's ability to adapt to challenging battlefield scenarios, reaffirming its preparedness for modern warfare. This exercise stands as a testament to the Indian Army's commitment to maintaining national security through continuous training and innovation.

#### **Foot notes:**

- The exercise aims to enhance the Army's combat readiness and test its high-intensity combat capabilities, with advanced technologies and state-of-the-art equipment being integrated into the exercise.
- The exercise will involve elite airborne soldiers from the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force, and will include complex operations such as troop and equipment insertion in hostile terrain.
- The Army will also assess and refine its logistic sustenance strategies to ensure that troops remain well-equipped and operational in extremely challenging conditions.
- Exercise 'Devil Strike' underscores the Indian Armed Forces' commitment to maintaining operational excellence and adaptability in the ever-evolving military landscape.
- The exercise will enhance the readiness of both the Army and the Air Force, preparing them for future challenges and demonstrating their ability to work together seamlessly.

# **Defence Ministry Signs Contract for MRSAMs with Bharat Dynamics**

The Defence Ministry has signed a significant contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited for the procurement of Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MRSAMs). This deal aims to bolster India's air defense capabilities, ensuring enhanced protection against aerial threats. The



MRSAMs, known for their precision and advanced technology, will play a pivotal role in strengthening the country's strategic preparedness. Bharat Dynamics Limited, a trusted partner in defense manufacturing, will oversee the production and delivery of these state-of-the-art missile systems. This agreement underscores the government's commitment to self-reliance in defense and the modernization of India's armed forces.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Indigenous Content is a key aspect of this contract, with the missiles being supplied under the 'Buy (Indian)' category, having largely indigenous content.
- The MRSAM system is already a standard fit on several Indian Naval Ships and is planned to be fitted on most future platforms, making this contract a significant milestone in bolstering India's defence capabilities.
- This deal is expected to generate employment of around 3.5 lakh mandays in the defence industry, including various MSMEs, which is a huge boost to the economy.
- BDL has been working in collaboration with DRDO and foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for the manufacture and supply of various missiles and allied equipment to the Indian Armed Forces.
- The contract marks a critical step towards achieving the government's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', promoting self-reliance and indigenization of advanced military technology.

# **BANKING NEWS**

# Ashok Chandra appointed as MD & CEO of PNB

Ashok Chandra has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Punjab National Bank (PNB), ushering in a new era of leadership for the financial institution. With extensive experience in banking and financial management, he is expected to bring innovative strategies to enhance the bank's operations and customer services. His appointment comes at a time when PNB is focusing on digital transformation and improving its market position. Chandra's leadership will likely play a pivotal role in driving growth and addressing the evolving needs of the banking sector. The announcement has been welcomed as a step towards strengthening PNB's governance and strategic direction.

- Extensive Experience is one of his strong suits, having worked in various capacities, including as an Executive Director at Canara Bank since November 2022.
- He will be overseeing the overall strategy and direction of PNB, and his appointment is for a three-year term, with the possibility of an extension based on performance.
- Digital Banking is an area where Chandra has significant expertise, having overseen digital banking and information technology, strategy and planning, marketing and public relations, among other verticals, during his time at Canara Bank.



- Chandra began his banking career at the erstwhile Corporation Bank in September 1991 as a probationary officer, and has risen through the ranks to take on this top role at PNB.
- Leadership is what PNB needs, and Chandra is expected to provide that, having held various key positions throughout his career, including Executive Director at Canara Bank.

**About PNB:** 

**CEO**: Ashok Chandra **Headquarters**: New Delhi

**Founded**: 1894

## Indian Bank appoints Binod Kumar as MD & CEO

Binod Kumar has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank, marking a key leadership transition for the institution. With years of experience in the banking sector, he is expected to bring valuable insights and innovative strategies to drive the bank's growth. His appointment comes at a time when Indian Bank is focused on enhancing its digital footprint and expanding its services to a broader customer base. Kumar's leadership will play a crucial role in strengthening the bank's market position and addressing emerging challenges in the financial sector. This decision reflects the bank's commitment to robust governance and sustained development.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Experience is on his side, with over three decades of experience in the banking sector, including his previous role as Executive Director of Punjab National Bank (PNB) since November 2022.
- Kumar has a strong educational background, being a science graduate and holding certifications like FRM, CAIIB, and a diploma in Treasury Investment, as well as a Post Graduate Diploma in Banking and Finance from NIBM.
- As MD and CEO of Indian Bank, he'll be responsible for leading the bank's overall strategy and direction, and his experience in corporate banking, treasury, international banking, and finance will be invaluable in this role.
- Kumar's appointment is seen as a significant development for Indian Bank, which has been working to expand its operations and improve its financial performance, with a net profit increase of 36.2% to Rs 2706.44 crore in Q2 FY25.
- With his leadership, Indian Bank is expected to continue its growth trajectory, and his experience in handling key areas like data analytics and warehousing will be crucial in driving the bank's digital transformation.

**About Indian Bank: CEO**: Binod Kumar

Headquarters: Chennai

Founded: 1907



PNB MetLife has partnered with Saraswat Bank to promote financial inclusion and expand access to insurance services. This collaboration aims to bring comprehensive financial solutions to underserved communities, addressing their insurance and financial planning needs. By leveraging Saraswat Bank's extensive network and PNB MetLife's expertise in insurance, the partnership seeks to enhance financial literacy and security among customers. The initiative aligns with the shared vision of both organizations to empower individuals with accessible and affordable financial products. This strategic alliance is a step forward in creating a more inclusive financial ecosystem across the country.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Bancassurance partnership is the key to this collaboration, where PNB MetLife will leverage Saraswat Bank's extensive distribution network to sell insurance policies.
- The partnership will help address the protection gap and increase insurance penetration in India, promoting financial inclusion by reaching underserved and uninsured segments of the population.
- Sameer Bansal, Managing Director & CEO of PNB MetLife, believes this partnership will make life insurance accessible to millions of Indians, while Arti Patil, Managing Director & CEO of Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd, sees it as an opportunity to deliver comprehensive services that address every aspect of their customers' financial well-being.

#### **RBI Allows Overseas Banks to Open INR Accounts**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted overseas banks to open Indian Rupee (INR) accounts in a bid to promote international trade in the domestic currency. This move aligns with the RBI's efforts to internationalize the rupee and reduce reliance on foreign currencies like the US dollar. Foreign banks can now establish Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) to facilitate trade settlements and financial transactions in INR. The decision is expected to boost cross-border trade, enhance liquidity, and strengthen India's position in the global financial system. This initiative also reflects India's commitment to deepening economic ties with its trading partners.

- Increased Accessibility is one of the key benefits of this move, as it will enable overseas banks to provide INR-denominated services to their clients, making it easier for them to conduct business in India.
- This development is also likely to Reduce Transaction Costs, as companies will no longer need to convert their funds into foreign currencies to conduct transactions with Indian businesses.
- The RBI's decision is part of its efforts to Internationalize the Rupee, which aims to increase the use of the INR in global transactions and reduce India's dependence on foreign currencies.



- Simplified Trade is another advantage of this move, as it will facilitate trade between India and other countries by allowing companies to settle transactions in INR, rather than relying on foreign currencies.
- Overall, the RBI's decision to allow overseas banks to open INR accounts is a positive step towards promoting India's economic growth and increasing its global trade presence.

# SPORTS NEWS

# Ira Jadhav becomes highest individual scorer in Women's U19 ODI

Ira Jadhav made history by becoming the highest individual scorer in Women's U19 ODI cricket. Her remarkable innings not only set a new record but also highlighted her exceptional talent and potential in the sport. Jadhav's performance was lauded by fans and experts alike, as she showcased immense skill and composure. This achievement further cements her position as a rising star in Indian women's cricket. It serves as an inspiration to young cricketers aspiring to make their mark in international cricket.

#### Foot notes:

- Her incredible innings included 42 fours and 16 sixes, leaving the opposition bowlers helpless.
- This feat has shattered the previous record held by Smriti Mandhana, who scored 224 runs in 2013.
- Ira's achievement is even more remarkable considering her age she's just 14 years old and has already shown immense talent and maturity in her game.
- Her partnership with captain Hurley Gala was also noteworthy, as they added 274 runs for the second wicket and helped Mumbai post a massive total of 563/3.
- Ira's record-breaking knock has not only made her a sensation in the cricketing world but also earned her a spot as a standby player for the Indian team in the upcoming U19 T20 World Cup in Malaysia.
- This young prodigy is definitely one to watch out for in the future, and her achievement is a testament to the growing talent and potential in women's cricket in India.

# Jadeja, Rohit, and Kohli Retired from T20Is

India's star cricketers Ravindra Jadeja, Rohit Sharma, and Virat Kohli have officially announced their retirement from T20 Internationals. The trio, known for their remarkable contributions to Indian cricket, made this decision to focus on other formats and mentor the younger generation. Rohit, a dynamic opener, and Kohli, one of the greatest run-scorers, leave behind an unparalleled legacy in T20Is. Jadeja, renowned for his all-round prowess, played a key role in many memorable victories. Their absence will mark the end of an era, but their impact on Indian cricket will continue to inspire future players.



- Jadeja, Rohit, and Kohli have announced their retirement from T20Is, marking the end of an incredible era for Indian cricket.
- The trio decided to hang up their boots after India's historic win in the T20 World Cup, where they remained unbeaten throughout the tournament.
- Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were instrumental in India's success, with Rohit finishing as the team's highest run-scorer and Kohli playing a crucial role in the final against South Africa.
- Ravindra Jadeja, on the other hand, was a vital part of the team, providing crucial breakthroughs with his bowling and making significant contributions with his batting.
- With their retirement, Indian cricket has entered a new era, and it will be interesting to see how the team shapes up in the future, with new players taking on the mantle.
- The trio's legacy will continue to inspire future generations of cricketers, and their contributions to Indian cricket will never be forgotten, with Rohit, Kohli, and Jadeja leaving behind a lasting impact on the sport.



## India beat Nepal in Kho Kho World Cup 2025 opener

India began their campaign in the Kho Kho World Cup 2025 with a commanding victory over Nepal in the tournament opener. Demonstrating exceptional teamwork and agility, the Indian team dominated the match from the start, securing a comfortable win. Key players showcased outstanding performances, with strategic chases and defenses that left Nepal struggling to keep pace. This win sets a strong tone for India's title aspirations as they aim to defend their championship. Fans and experts praised the team's efforts, highlighting their preparation and determination to excel on the global stage.

- The match was played at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, with India's men's team putting up a strong performance to take the lead.
- The Indian team, led by captain Pratik Waikar, showed great skill and strategy, outmaneuvering the Nepalese team to win by a margin of 5 points.
- This win is a great start for India in the tournament, and they will look to continue their winning streak in their next match against Brazil.
- The Kho Kho World Cup 2025 features 20 teams from around the world, competing in a round-robin stage followed by knockout matches.



- The tournament aims to promote Kho Kho as an internationally recognized sport, and India's win in the opener has set the tone for an exciting competition.
- The Indian team's victory has generated a lot of excitement among fans, and they will be looking forward to their next match to see if they can continue their winning run.

#### **Tyson Fury Announces Retirement from Boxing**

Tyson Fury has announced his retirement from boxing, marking the end of an illustrious career. Known for his charisma and skill, Fury leaves behind a legacy that has inspired countless fans and athletes. He has held multiple world titles and remains a dominant figure in heavyweight boxing history. His decision to step away from the ring allows him to focus on personal endeavors and family life. Fury's retirement is a significant moment for the boxing community and his loyal supporters.

#### **Foot notes:**

- His retirement comes just a month after losing a rematch to Oleksandr Usyk, and many are questioning whether he'll actually stay retired.
- Fury's promoter, Frank Warren, has expressed support for his decision, saying that Fury has done everything he can in his career and has nothing to prove.
- Anthony Joshua's promoter, Eddie Hearn, is skeptical about Fury's retirement, thinking that he might come out of retirement for the right fight.
- Fury's record stands at 34-2-1, with 24 KOs, and he's considered one of the best British heavyweights of his generation.

## Indian women's team achieved remarkable victory against Iran

In a proud moment for Indian sports, the Indian women's team delivered an outstanding performance to secure a remarkable victory against Iran. Their achievement underscores their growing dominance on the international stage and reflects the relentless hard work and determination of the players. This victory has not only brought glory to the nation but also serves as an inspiration for aspiring athletes across the country

- The team dominated the match from the start, eliminating Iran's first batch in just 33 seconds, showcasing their incredible skill and tactical prowess.
- Led by captain Priyanka Ingle, the team demonstrated their championship credentials with another emphatic victory, establishing themselves as the team to beat in the tournament.
- The match saw a remarkable 6-minute-8-second Dream Run in Turn 3, which effectively sealed the match, with Ashwini spearheading the attack and Meenu continuing her brilliant form with multiple touchpoints.
- The team's performance was nothing short of spectacular, with tactical brilliance from players like Nirmala, Priyanka, and Nasreen, and they have now secured their quarter-final berth.



• The Indian women's Kho Kho team is clearly a force to be reckoned with, and their victory against Iran has cemented their position atop their group.

## Smriti Mandhana scored fastest ODI century in 70 balls against Ireland

Smriti Mandhana created history by scoring the fastest ODI century in just 70 balls against Ireland. Her exceptional performance showcased her prowess as one of the finest batters in women's cricket. This record-breaking inning added another milestone to her already illustrious career. Mandhana's aggressive yet composed approach on the field was widely applauded. Her achievement has further cemented her status as a leading figure in international cricket.

#### **Foot notes:**

- She broke the previous record held by Harmanpreet Kaur, who scored a century in 87 balls against South Africa last year.
- Mandhana's explosive knock of 135 runs included 12 boundaries and seven sixes, helping India post their highest-ever ODI total of 435/5.
- This total is not only the highest in women's ODIs but also surpasses the men's team's record of 418/5 against West Indies in 2011.
- Mandhana's century is also her 10th ODI ton, making her the first Asian batter to reach this milestone, and she now joins an elite list of players with multiple centuries in the format.

Her partnership with Pratika Rawal, who scored 154, was instrumental in India's massive total, with the two adding 233 runs for the opening wicket.

Mandhana's incredible form has seen her score 996 runs in 16 ODIs since the start of 2024, with four centuries and five fifties, cementing her position as one of the top batters in the world.

## Arjun Erigaisi Stuns Chess World with Wins Against Carlsen, Caruana

The chess world witnessed a sensational performance by Arjun Erigaisi, who defeated Magnus Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana, two of the most celebrated players in the sport. His victories against these giants have cemented his position as a rising star in international chess. Arjun's achievements highlight the growing prominence of Indian players in the global chess arena and the immense talent emerging from the country.

- Arjun won the early Titled Tuesday blitz competition with 10 points from 11 rounds, beating Carlsen with black pieces in round 10 and Caruana in the final round.
- His only loss came against American grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura in round seven, but he still managed to edge out Nakamura with better tiebreaks.
- This win is a huge deal, as Titled Tuesday is an online event for titled players with verified (link unavailable) accounts, and over 900 players participated in the latest tournament.



- Arjun's successful year in chess continued with this win, following his victories in the Menorca Open A, Stepan Avagyan Memorial, and WR Chess Masters Cup in 2024.
- Nakamura, who won the later 11-round event of Titled Tuesday, called the tournament the "world's strongest tournament", and Arjun's win is a testament to his skills and determination.

#### Novak Djokovic Sets Record for Most Grand Slam Matches

Novak Djokovic has set a remarkable record by playing the most Grand Slam matches in tennis history. This milestone further cements his status as one of the greatest players in the sport. Over his illustrious career, Djokovic has consistently demonstrated exceptional skill, determination, and resilience. His achievement highlights his longevity and dominance in the highly competitive world of tennis. Fans and analysts alike celebrate this new chapter in his legendary journey.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Djokovic has won a record 24 Grand Slam men's singles titles, including a record ten Australian Open titles, and has been ranked No. 1 for a record total of 428 weeks.
- He has a remarkable ability to perform under pressure, having won 12 major titles and completing his second and third Career Grand Slams, and has been the reigning champion of all four majors at once across three different surfaces.
- Djokovic's record-breaking win is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and passion for the sport, and he continues to inspire fans around the world with his incredible skills and achievements.
- Throughout his career, Djokovic has faced tough competition from other top players, including Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, but he has consistently proven himself to be one of the greatest tennis players of all time.
- With his latest record-breaking achievement, Djokovic solidifies his position as one of the most successful tennis players in history, and his legacy continues to grow with each new win.

## Bengal Tigers defeat UP Rudras 5-3 in the Hockey India League

The Bengal Tigers secured an impressive 5-3 victory over UP Rudras in a thrilling match at the Hockey India League. The game showcased high-energy performances, with both teams displaying exceptional skill and determination. Bengal Tigers maintained their dominance throughout the match, capitalizing on key opportunities to outscore their opponents. UP Rudras put up a strong fight but fell short in the face of the Tigers' relentless attack and strategic gameplay. This win boosts the Bengal Tigers' standing in the league and highlights their potential as strong contenders for the championship title.

#### **Foot notes:**

• The match was an intense one, with the Bengal Tigers showcasing their skills and strategy to outmaneuver their opponents.



- The team's victory is a testament to their hard work and dedication to the sport, and they're definitely a force to be reckoned with in the league.
- The Bengal Tigers have been performing well in the Hockey India League, with a recent win against the Delhi SG Pipers in the Women's Hockey India League.
- The team's success can be attributed to their strong teamwork and coordination on the field, which has allowed them to outscore their opponents and secure crucial wins.
- With this victory, the Bengal Tigers are looking strong and poised to make a significant impact in the Hockey India League, and fans are eagerly waiting to see their next move.

# SCI & TECH NEWS

# ISRO successfully brings satellites to 3-meter range under SpaDex

ISRO has achieved a significant milestone by successfully bringing satellites to a 3-meter range under the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDex). This breakthrough demonstrates India's advancements in autonomous satellite docking technology, crucial for in-orbit servicing and refueling. The experiment involved precise maneuvering and coordination, showcasing ISRO's engineering and technical prowess. Such capabilities are set to enhance the longevity and sustainability of satellites, contributing to more efficient space operations. This achievement marks another step forward in India's growing capabilities in advanced space technologies.

#### **Foot notes:**

- The two satellites, SDX01 and SDX02, were launched on December 30 and were initially at a distance of 475 kilometers from each other.
- ISRO scientists brought the satellites closer, first to 15 meters and then to 3 meters, in a trial attempt to test the docking process.
- Although the docking process was postponed due to some issues with the proximity and docking sensor, the satellites were safely moved back to a safer distance.
- The SpaDex mission aims to demonstrate in-space docking using small spacecraft, which is a crucial technology for future missions like the Bharatiya Antariksh Station and landing an astronaut on the moon.
- ISRO will analyze the data further before attempting the docking process again, and the success of this mission will make India the fourth nation to master the complex technologies required for in-space docking.
- The mission has already generated a lot of excitement, and if successful, it will be a significant achievement for ISRO and a major step forward for India's space program.

# Pixxel launches India's 1st private satellite constellation with SpaceX

Pixxel, an Indian space-tech startup, has launched the country's first private satellite constellation in collaboration with SpaceX. This milestone achievement marks a significant step for India's private space sector in advancing satellite technology. The constellation aims to provide high-resolution Earth imaging and data analytics for applications like climate



monitoring, agriculture, and urban planning. By partnering with SpaceX, Pixxel has demonstrated its global competitiveness in satellite deployment and innovation. This launch underscores India's growing presence in the international space industry, led by private enterprises.

#### Foot notes:

- Pixxel's satellite constellation, called Firefly, consists of six hyperspectral imaging satellites that will provide high-resolution images of the Earth, helping to monitor climate change, track natural disasters, and more.
- The first three satellites were launched on January 14th from California, and the remaining three will be launched in the next two months, followed by 18 more satellites to complete the constellation.
- These satellites are special because they can capture images in over 150 spectral bands, allowing for detailed analysis of the Earth's surface, atmosphere, and oceans.
- Pixxel's technology has the potential to revolutionize various industries such as agriculture, energy, and environmental monitoring, and the company has already signed up over 60 clients, including the US National Reconnaissance Organization.
- This achievement marks a significant milestone for India's private space industry, showcasing the country's growing capabilities in space technology and its potential to become a major player in the global space market.

#### China Launches Pakistan's Satellite Into Space

China has successfully launched Pakistan's satellite into space, further strengthening their bilateral cooperation in space technology. The launch signifies Pakistan's growing aspirations in space exploration, supported by China's advanced aerospace capabilities. This satellite is expected to enhance Pakistan's telecommunications, Earth observation, and scientific research. The collaboration reflects the deep strategic partnership between the two nations, extending into high-tech domains. It also highlights China's role as a key player in enabling space missions for its allies.

- The satellite was launched at 12:07 pm Beijing Time by a Long March-2D carrier rocket and entered its planned orbit successfully, with the primary purpose of collecting Earth observation data using electro-optical sensors.
- This launch marks a significant advancement in Pakistan's space technology, reflecting its commitment to leveraging space for national progress and sustainable development, and is expected to enhance Pakistan's capabilities in monitoring and managing natural resources, disaster response, urban planning, and agricultural development.
- The PRSC-EO1 satellite is equipped with advanced electro-optical sensors for high-resolution Earth imaging, and its launch is a result of the growing cooperation between China and Pakistan in the realm of space technology.



- China has been launching satellites for Pakistan in recent years, including the PRSS-1, Pakistan's first optical remote sensing satellite, and the PakTES-1A, a smaller observation satellite, and this launch further strengthens their space cooperation.
- The successful deployment of PRSC-EO1 is expected to bolster Pakistan's technological capabilities and contribute to its strategic objectives in space exploration, with China's support playing a crucial role in Pakistan's space ambitions.

# APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

# **Vineet Joshi Takes Charge As Secretary Of Higher Education**

Vineet Joshi has officially assumed the role of Secretary of Higher Education, taking charge of one of the most critical positions in the education sector. With a wealth of experience in academic administration and policy formulation, his leadership is expected to bring transformative changes to India's higher education landscape. Joshi's focus will likely include enhancing the quality of education, promoting innovation, and strengthening global collaborations. His appointment comes at a pivotal time, as the sector aims to implement reforms aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP). Under his guidance, the ministry is poised to address key challenges and drive progress in higher education across the country.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Background is key to understanding his appointment, as Joshi has previously served as the Chief Secretary of Manipur, bringing a wealth of experience to his new role.
- His appointment is expected to bring a fresh perspective to the Department of Higher Education, aligning with the government's vision for education.
- Joshi assumed charge at Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi, marking the beginning of a new era in higher education.
- As Secretary, he will play a crucial role in shaping the country's higher education policy and implementing reforms.
- This development is a positive step towards strengthening the education sector, and Joshi's leadership is expected to have a significant impact on the future of higher education in India.

# Bonzer7 onboards Vaani Kapoor as brand ambassador

Bonzer7 has announced Bollywood actress Vaani Kapoor as its brand ambassador. Known for her elegance and style, Vaani will represent the brand across various campaigns, aiming to enhance its visibility and connect with a broader audience.

- Vaani Kapoor has been signed as the brand ambassador of Bonzer7, and she'll be featuring in their campaigns, including the recently launched 'Kya Baat Hain' campaign.
- Bonzer7 is a distinguished tiles brand under the banner of Asian Granito India, and they're proud to have Vaani Kapoor on board to promote their products.



- Vaani Kapoor is a popular Bollywood actress, known for her stunning looks and talented performances, making her a great fit for the brand.
- The 'Kya Baat Hain' campaign featuring Vaani Kapoor has been launched, and it's expected to create a buzz in the market.
- This partnership is a significant move for Bonzer7, as it aims to increase brand awareness and reach a wider audience through Vaani Kapoor's massive fan following.
- With Vaani Kapoor as their brand ambassador, Bonzer7 is likely to come up with more exciting campaigns and promotions in the future, so stay tuned.



## Lemma appoints Siddharth Dabhade as Chief Business Officer

Lemma has appointed Siddharth Dabhade as its new Chief Business Officer, marking a strategic move to accelerate its global growth. With extensive experience in scaling businesses, Dabhade is expected to play a key role in driving Lemma's expansion and market leadership. His appointment aligns with the company's vision of innovating in the advertising technology space and strengthening partnerships. Dabhade's proven expertise in strategy and execution is anticipated to bring transformative results. This leadership addition underscores Lemma's commitment to fostering innovation and achieving long-term success.

- He'll be leading the expansion of Lemma's outcome-centric OOH solution across markets, focusing on identifying new opportunities and driving revenue growth.
- Dabhade joins Lemma from MIQ, where he successfully launched and scaled the company's commercial business in India and China.
- As Chief Business Officer, he'll be responsible for driving strategic growth and leading the performance business at Lemma.
- With his expertise, Lemma aims to strengthen its position as a leading omni-channel platform for emerging media.
- Dabhade's appointment is a significant move for Lemma, and his experience in the industry will undoubtedly help the company achieve its goals.
- He's expected to play a crucial role in shaping Lemma's future, and his leadership will be instrumental in taking the company to the next level.



Devajit Saikia has been appointed as the new Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Known for his administrative acumen, Saikia brings a wealth of experience to the role, aiming to further strengthen Indian cricket's global presence. His appointment comes at a time when the BCCI is focusing on expanding grassroots cricket and enhancing infrastructure. Saikia has expressed his commitment to fostering young talent and promoting the game across diverse regions. His leadership is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Indian cricket.

#### Foot notes:

- He has been serving as interim secretary since December 1 and was officially elected at the BCCI's Special General Meeting (SGM).
- Saikia had a short cricketing career, playing just four first-class matches for Assam, but has been involved in cricket administration for several years.
- He has served as the joint secretary of the BCCI since 2022 and has been a key figure in the organization's decision-making process.
- Saikia's appointment is seen as a significant development in Indian cricket, and he is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the sport's future in the country.
- He will be working closely with other BCCI officials, including Vice-president Rajeev Shukla, to take Indian cricket to new heights.
- Saikia's experience as a cricket administrator and his passion for the sport make him an ideal candidate for the role, and he is expected to bring a new perspective to the BCCI.

# OP Singh appointed as new Chairman of Indian Police Foundation

Former IPS officer OP Singh has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Indian Police Foundation (IPF), a premier think tank focused on police reforms and public safety in India. Singh, known for his exemplary leadership during his tenure as the Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police, brings a wealth of experience to his new role. His appointment underscores the IPF's commitment to driving strategic discussions and initiatives to modernize India's policing framework. Under his leadership, the foundation aims to foster greater collaboration between law enforcement agencies, academia, and civil society. Singh's vision includes prioritizing transparency, accountability, and community engagement in policing.

- He brings a wealth of experience to the position, having served as the Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police, Central Industrial Security Force, and National Disaster Response Force.
- Singh is known for his innovative approach to law enforcement and has introduced the police commissionerate system in UP, making him an ideal candidate to lead the Indian Police Foundation.
- As Chairman, he will focus on promoting professional policing, improving law and order, and enhancing the overall efficiency of the police force.



- Singh has also been recognized for his role in rescue operations during the 2015 Nepal earthquake and has received several awards, including the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and Police Medal for Gallantry.
- He is expected to leverage his expertise to drive reforms and modernization in the police force, making it more effective in addressing the complex challenges of modern policing.
- With his strong background and experience, OP Singh is poised to make a significant impact as the new Chairman of the Indian Police Foundation, and his leadership will be closely watched by the law enforcement community.

#### **Vineet Agarwal Appointed Director at Impact Infracap**

Vineet Agarwal has been appointed as a Director at Impact Infracap, marking a significant milestone in his professional journey. With extensive experience and expertise in the industry, he is expected to bring valuable insights and leadership to the organization. His appointment aligns with Impact Infracap's vision of strengthening its leadership team and driving growth in its sector. Agarwal's track record of success and strategic thinking will play a pivotal role in shaping the company's future initiatives. This development underscores Impact Infracap's commitment to fostering excellence through experienced leadership.

#### **Foot notes:**

- He brings over 11 years of extensive experience in the infrastructure and energy sectors across India, South-East Asia, and Latin America, with expertise in equity fund raising, mergers and acquisitions, and portfolio management.
- Prior to joining Impact Infracap, Agarwal served as Assistant Vice President M&A at Sterlite Power, where he led significant transactions, including the establishment of a joint venture platform with GIC and the divestment of assets worth over \$1.5 billion.
- Agarwal will be instrumental in driving strategic initiatives and enhancing the firm's investment management services, and his appointment is seen as a significant development in the Indian infrastructure sector.
- He holds a Post Graduate Program in Management from the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, with majors in Strategy and Finance, and a Bachelor of Engineering from Delhi College of Engineering.
- The appointment of Vineet Agarwal as Director at Impact Infracap is expected to bring new expertise and leadership to the firm, and help drive growth and success in the Indian infrastructure sector.

# AiDASH appoints Amresh Mehra as Director of People and Culture

AiDASH has announced the appointment of Amresh Mehra as the Director of People and Culture, a key addition to its leadership team. With a wealth of experience in human resource management and organizational development, Mehra is set to play a vital role in enhancing workplace culture and employee engagement. His appointment reflects AiDASH's commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive environment for its workforce. Mehra's strategic expertise



will be instrumental in aligning the company's people-centric initiatives with its long-term goals. This move underscores AiDASH's focus on strengthening its talent framework to support its growth trajectory.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Amresh Mehra brings over 20 years of experience in human resources, with a strong background in cultural transformation, talent strategy, and organizational development.
- In his new role, Mehra will be responsible for leading AiDASH's people and culture function, focusing on creating a work environment that fosters innovation, collaboration, and growth.
- Mehra's previous experience includes leadership positions at companies like Qwest Communications, Zendrive, and Recoup Health, where he has developed and implemented successful people strategies that drive business outcomes.
- At AiDASH, Mehra will work closely with the leadership team to develop and execute a comprehensive people strategy that aligns with the company's business objectives and supports its rapid growth.
- Mehra is excited to join AiDASH and is looking forward to contributing to the company's mission of revolutionizing the satellite industry through innovative technologies and solutions.
- The appointment of Amresh Mehra as Director of People and Culture is a significant step for AiDASH, demonstrating the company's commitment to investing in its people and creating a world-class work environment that attracts and retains top talent in the industry.

# TransBnk appoints Govind Dichwalkar as Chief Operating Officer

TransBnk has appointed Govind Dichwalkar as its new Chief Operating Officer (COO). In this role, Dichwalkar will be responsible for overseeing the company's operations and driving strategic growth initiatives. With his extensive experience in operational management and innovation, he is expected to enhance TransBnk's efficiency and operational excellence. His leadership will play a crucial role in scaling the company's services and strengthening its market presence. This appointment marks a significant step as TransBnk continues to expand its footprint in the financial technology sector.

- Operations Expertise is one of his strong suits, with a background in optimizing operations, IT deployment, and organizational excellence from his 21-year stint at the Aditya Birla Group.
- His focus will be on building robust governance frameworks, enhancing operational efficiency, and fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation at TransBnk.
- As a world-renowned leader, he's delivered some of India's largest and most innovative operations, and his expertise will drive TransBnk to new levels of growth.



- Dichwalkar aims to solidify TransBnk's position as a leader in India and expand its footprint globally, leveraging his experience in establishing large operations.
- With his leadership, TransBnk is poised for sustainable growth and global success, and his appointment is a significant step forward for the company.

#### Nidhi Khare appointed as Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Senior IAS officer Nidhi Khare has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. She brings extensive administrative experience, having previously served in various key roles, including in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Her appointment aligns with India's commitment to advancing its renewable energy sector and achieving ambitious clean energy targets. Khare will focus on policy implementation and fostering innovation to support India's transition to sustainable energy solutions. Her leadership is expected to play a pivotal role in driving green energy initiatives and strengthening India's position in global renewable energy efforts.

#### **Foot notes:**

- She's a 1992 batch IAS officer from Jharkhand, bringing a wealth of experience to her new assignment.
- This move is likely to strengthen the ministry's efforts in promoting renewable energy and reducing the country's dependence on fossil fuels.
- As Secretary, Khare will oversee the implementation of policies and programs aimed at increasing the use of solar, wind, and other forms of renewable energy.
- Her appointment is seen as a significant development in the government's push for sustainable energy and reducing carbon emissions.
- Khare will hold the additional charge until a regular incumbent is appointed, and her leadership is expected to make a positive impact on the ministry's initiatives.

## David Kim has been appointed as the head of Korea business

David Kim has been appointed as the Head of Korea Business, bringing a wealth of experience in strategic leadership and market expansion. Known for his expertise in driving growth in competitive markets, he is expected to play a crucial role in enhancing the company's presence in South Korea. His appointment reflects the organization's focus on leveraging local insights to achieve sustainable success in the region. Kim will oversee key operations, partnerships, and business development initiatives in Korea. This leadership change aims to further strengthen the company's position in one of Asia's most dynamic economies.

- He brings over 25 years of experience in the insurance industry, having held leadership roles such as CEO of Marsh Korea and founder of Johnson and Higgins Korea.
- Kim's team at Miller Korea includes Andrew Kim, Youngkum Yoon, and Tae Hoon Kim, all of whom have extensive experience in the Korean insurance market.



- The launch of Miller Korea is part of the firm's expansion into Asia, with the goal of delivering specialized solutions for the local market.
- Kim is excited to build a strong team and work with clients to address their unique needs, and he sees a significant opportunity for Miller to grow in the Korean market.
- Miller's growth in Asia is a key part of the firm's international growth objectives, and the establishment of Miller Korea is a major step forward in this effort.
- The firm's leadership is confident that Kim's experience and relationships will help drive the adoption of Miller's technology and accelerate business in the region.

#### PUMA became 'PVMA' to onboard PV Sindhu as brand ambassador

PUMA, the global sportswear brand, has creatively rebranded itself as 'PVMA' to celebrate the onboarding of badminton champion PV Sindhu as its brand ambassador. This unique initiative highlights the brand's commitment to honoring Sindhu's exceptional achievements in the world of sports. By associating with one of India's most celebrated athletes, PUMA reinforces its dedication to promoting excellence and inspiring the youth. PV Sindhu will represent the brand in campaigns and initiatives that align with PUMA's ethos of performance and innovation. This partnership is expected to further elevate PUMA's presence in the Indian market and beyond.

#### **Foot notes:**

- PUMA swapped its iconic name to 'PVMA' across multiple billboards and store signage, sparking curiosity and conversations nationwide.
- The campaign was a clever play on the brand's name, combining it with the initials of the celebrated Indian badminton star, PV Sindhu.
- The 'PVMA' logo was used to unveil Sindhu as PUMA's new brand ambassador, and she will be promoting the brand during the India Open 2025 by wearing their sportswear products.
- This is the first time PUMA has brought a badminton sporting star on board, and Sindhu's association is expected to inspire a new generation of sports enthusiasts.
- The partnership will debut at the India Open 2025, where PUMA will launch a new badminton range featuring footwear, apparel, and accessories.
- The 'PVMA' campaign is a testament to how outdoor advertising, when paired with creativity and cultural relevance, can drive conversations and make a lasting impact.

## Faiz Ahmed Kidwai has been appointed as chief of DGCA

Faiz Ahmed Kidwai has been appointed as the new Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), taking charge of the regulatory body. His appointment is expected to bring fresh leadership to the aviation sector. Kidwai's extensive experience and expertise in administration will likely benefit the aviation industry. As the head of DGCA, he will oversee critical matters related to safety, regulations, and operational efficiency. This leadership change comes at a pivotal time for India's growing aviation market.



- He is a senior IAS officer with a wealth of experience in administration and governance.
- Kidwai's appointment as DGCA Director General is a significant development in the Indian aviation sector.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is responsible for regulating and overseeing the safety and security of civil aviation in India.
- As the chief of DGCA, Kidwai will play a crucial role in shaping the country's aviation policy and ensuring the safe operation of airlines and airports.
- His experience in the Ministry of Agriculture will likely bring a fresh perspective to the DGCA, and his leadership skills will be essential in driving the organization forward.
- Kidwai's appointment has been widely reported, with many outlets praising his credentials and experience.

#### Truecaller appoints Hemant Arora as Global Head Ad Sales Business

Truecaller has appointed Hemant Arora as the Global Head of Ad Sales Business, signaling a strategic move to expand its advertising operations. Arora brings a wealth of experience in sales and marketing to the role. His leadership is expected to drive growth and innovation in the company's ad sales segment. Truecaller aims to strengthen its position in the digital advertising market with this key appointment. Arora's expertise will likely play a pivotal role in shaping the company's future.

#### Foot notes:

- Arora brings over two decades of experience in driving high-growth revenue strategies and managing global operations, having worked with companies like TikTok, Times Network, and Discovery Networks South Asia.
- In his previous role at TikTok, he headed global accounts for Europe, APAC, and METAP regions, giving him a deep understanding of global markets.
- Arora's appointment is expected to strengthen Truecaller's position in the ads business, with the company aiming to revolutionize how brands connect with consumers.
- He will be responsible for driving impactful growth and deepening partnerships globally, leveraging his proven track record of building scalable revenue models.
- Truecaller's CEO, Rishit Jhunjhunwala, believes Arora's expertise makes him the ideal leader to drive the company's ad sales strategy.
- With Arora on board, Truecaller is poised to unlock the full potential of its platform for advertisers across the globe, offering a unique opportunity for brands to connect with consumers.

# **Angel One appoints Ambarish Kenghe as Group CEO**

Angel One has announced the appointment of Ambarish Kenghe as its new Group CEO, ushering in a new phase of leadership. Kenghe is expected to lead the company's growth and innovation strategies. With a strong background in technology and management, he is well-suited to drive Angel One's vision forward. His appointment reflects the organization's



commitment to delivering enhanced services and products. Kenghe's leadership is anticipated to elevate the company's market position.

#### **Foot notes:**

- He previously worked at Google Pay as Vice President and General Manager, guiding the platform's expansion and strengthening India's UPI ecosystem.
- Kenghe also worked at Myntra as Chief Product Officer, deploying AI- and machine learning-driven solutions in the fashion e-commerce space.
- With a strong educational background, including an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, and multiple master's degrees, Kenghe is a prolific innovator with four patents to his name.
- As Group CEO, Kenghe aims to drive the next phase of growth for Angel One, empowering users with advanced financial solutions and leveraging his proven record of driving innovation.
- Angel One's chairman and managing director, Dinesh Thakkar, believes Kenghe's appointment marks the start of an exciting new era for the company, which ranks as India's third-largest stockbroking platform with 7.75 million active clients.



## Shri Anurag Sharma has been Appointed as Director (Infrastructure), DFCCIL

Shri Anurag Sharma has been appointed as the Director (Infrastructure) of DFCCIL, bringing his expertise to this critical role. He will oversee infrastructure development for the organization, ensuring the smooth execution of key projects. DFCCIL, which is integral to India's freight corridor development, stands to benefit from his leadership. Sharma's appointment is part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen the country's logistics infrastructure. His role will involve coordinating with multiple stakeholders for project success.

- Anurag Sharma is currently an Executive Director at DFCCIL, bringing valuable experience to his new role.
- As Director (Infrastructure), he will oversee the development and maintenance of infrastructure for the dedicated freight corridors.
- Sharma's selection was made at a PESB meeting, where his qualifications and experience were assessed.



- He will play a crucial role in shaping the infrastructure strategy for DFCCIL, which is a Schedule A company.
- With his expertise, DFCCIL aims to enhance its infrastructure and improve efficiency in freight transportation.
- Sharma's appointment is expected to bring new momentum to DFCCIL's infrastructure development projects, driving growth and progress in the sector.

#### Justice K Vinod Chandran Sworn in as Supreme Court Judge

Justice K. Vinod Chandran has been officially sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Court of India. Known for his vast experience and judicial acumen, Justice Chandran's elevation is seen as a significant addition to the apex court. Before this appointment, he served as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, where his judgments were widely regarded for their clarity and depth. His appointment underscores the judiciary's commitment to strengthening the country's legal framework. Justice Chandran is expected to contribute significantly to upholding the rule of law and delivering justice at the highest level.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Justice Vinod Chandran was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, officially becoming a part of the Supreme Court.
- He was previously the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, a position he held since March 29, 2023, and before that, he served as a Judge of the Kerala High Court since November 8, 2011.
- The Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, recommended Justice Vinod Chandran's name for the position, considering his significant experience in diverse fields of law.
- With his swearing-in, the working strength of the Supreme Court has risen to 33 judges, including the Chief Justice, out of a sanctioned 34 judges.
- Justice Vinod Chandran's term as a Supreme Court Judge will last until April 25, 2028, and his appointment is seen as a significant development in the Indian judiciary.

## **ZEE Studios appoints Girish Johar as Head of Distribution & Revenues**

ZEE Studios has appointed Girish Johar as the Head of Distribution and Revenues. In this pivotal role, Johar will oversee the studio's distribution strategies and revenue generation across multiple platforms. With a wealth of experience in the entertainment industry, he is expected to bring innovative approaches to expanding ZEE Studios' market reach. His expertise in film distribution and understanding of audience preferences make him a valuable asset to the company. This appointment aligns with ZEE Studios' vision of strengthening its position in the global entertainment sector.

#### **Foot notes:**

• Film Acquisitions will be a key part of his job, where he'll contribute to acquiring new films and monetizing them globally across all rights and languages.



- With his expertise, ZEE Studios is likely to see some significant growth and expansion in the distribution and revenue departments.
- Johar's previous experience has equipped him with the skills to navigate the complex world of film distribution and revenue management.
- As Head of Distribution & Revenues, he'll play a crucial role in shaping the company's strategy and direction in these areas.
- Overall, this appointment is a great move for ZEE Studios, and we can expect to see some exciting developments in the future with Johar at the helm.

## Cox & Kings appoints Suresh Victor as Senior Vice President

Cox & Kings has appointed Suresh Victor as its new Senior Vice President. With extensive experience in the travel and tourism industry, Victor is expected to bring innovative strategies to drive growth and enhance customer experiences. His role will involve overseeing key business operations and strengthening the company's market position globally. This appointment aligns with Cox & Kings' vision of expanding its offerings and adapting to evolving travel trends. Victor's leadership is anticipated to contribute significantly to the company's future success.

#### Foot notes:

- Leadership Role is what Suresh Victor will be taking on, bringing his expertise to drive the company's technology strategy and innovation.
- With his background in technology and leadership, Victor is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the company's digital transformation and growth.
- Cox & Kings is a global leader in the travel and tourism industry, and Victor's appointment is a significant move to strengthen the company's technology capabilities.
- As Senior Vice President, Victor will be responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of technology solutions to enhance customer experience and drive business growth.
- This appointment is a testament to Cox & Kings' commitment to investing in top talent and technology to stay ahead in the competitive travel and tourism industry.

# Madison Turnt appoints Rishabh Ratnu as Vice President

Madison Turnt has appointed Rishabh Ratnu as its new Vice President. Ratnu brings a wealth of experience and expertise in strategic leadership and business development. In his new role, he will focus on driving growth, enhancing operational efficiency, and strengthening the company's market presence. This appointment reflects Madison Turnt's commitment to fostering innovation and scaling its business operations. Ratnu's leadership is expected to play a key role in achieving the company's long-term objectives.

#### **Foot notes:**

• He has a strong background in advertising and experiential marketing, with a focus on revenue growth and client relationship management.



- Ratnu has worked across creative and strategic roles throughout his career, making him a versatile leader.
- As Vice President, he will be heading Madison Turnt's Delhi Branch, which is a marketing unit of Madison World.
- His appointment is a significant move for Madison Turnt, as the company looks to expand its presence in the Delhi market.
- With his extensive experience and expertise, Ratnu is expected to play a key role in driving growth and success for Madison Turnt in the region.

## Justice Arun Mishra appointed as New Ombudsman Of BCCI

Justice Arun Mishra has been appointed as the new Ombudsman of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). A distinguished former judge of the Supreme Court of India, Justice Mishra is known for his vast legal expertise and fair decision-making. His appointment aims to ensure impartial resolution of disputes and uphold ethical standards within the organization. The Ombudsman's role includes addressing grievances and maintaining transparency in BCCI operations. Justice Mishra's leadership is expected to strengthen the governance framework of Indian cricket.

#### Foot notes:

- He will be responsible for resolving disputes and addressing ethical concerns within the BCCI, bringing his extensive judicial experience to the role.
- As Ombudsman, Justice Mishra will have the authority to investigate and adjudicate on complaints related to cricket administration, player conduct, and other matters.
- His appointment is seen as a significant development in the BCCI's efforts to strengthen its governance and ensure transparency and accountability.
- Justice Mishra's experience as a Supreme Court judge will likely bring a high level of credibility and integrity to the Ombudsman's office, helping to build trust among stakeholders.
- The BCCI's decision to appoint a former Supreme Court judge as its Ombudsman reflects its commitment to upholding the highest standards of ethics and governance in Indian cricket.

# Nripendra Mishra reappointed Chairperson of PM Museum & Library Society

Nripendra Mishra has been reappointed as the Chairperson of the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society. Known for his extensive administrative experience, Mishra continues to lead efforts to preserve and showcase the legacies of India's Prime Ministers. His reappointment underscores his significant contributions to enhancing the institution's stature and operations. The society plays a pivotal role in documenting the political and historical journey of India's leadership. Under Mishra's guidance, the museum and library are expected to further evolve as key centers of learning and cultural heritage.



- Reconstitution of the Executive Council has led to his reappointment, highlighting his continued importance in shaping the society's vision and goals.
- Mishra's experience as the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India has likely played a role in his reappointment, given his understanding of the government's priorities and initiatives.
- The PM Museum & Library Society is responsible for preserving and promoting India's rich history and cultural heritage, and Mishra's leadership will be crucial in guiding these efforts.
- His reappointment is expected to bring stability and continuity to the society, allowing it to build on its existing projects and initiatives.
- As Chairperson, Mishra will oversee the society's activities, including the management of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, and ensure that its objectives are aligned with the government's vision for cultural and historical preservation.

# AWARD NEWS

# Aparna Sen Honored with Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award

Aparna Sen, the renowned Indian filmmaker and actress, was honored with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for her exceptional contribution to cinema. The award, named after the legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray, celebrates individuals who have significantly impacted the world of Indian cinema. Sen, known for her thought-provoking films and powerful performances, has been a trailblazer in both Bengali and national cinema. Her works often explore themes of human emotions, relationships, and social issues, earning her critical acclaim and numerous accolades. The award recognizes her remarkable journey and lasting influence in shaping the landscape of Indian filmmaking.

- She received the award from the West Bengal Film Journalists Association, recognizing her remarkable work as a filmmaker and actress.
- Aparna Sen has had a illustrious career, with her directorial debut 36 Chowringhee Lane winning the Grand Prix at the Manila International Film Festival and earning her the National Award for Best Direction.
- Her film Mr and Mrs Iyer also won several international awards, including the Grand Prix for Best Feature Film at the Hawaii and Las Palmas Film Festivals.
- Sen has served on several international film juries and has been honored with the Padmashree Award in 1986 for her contributions to cinema.
- She has also been recognized for her work as a chief creative officer at Saregama India Ltd, where she has been responsible for commissioning Bengali films.
- This award is a testament to her dedication and passion for filmmaking, and she continues to be an inspiration to upcoming filmmakers and actors in the industry.



#### **Tarun Das Honored with Singapore Honorary Citizen Award**

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to fostering international ties, Tarun Das has been honored with the prestigious Singapore Honorary Citizen Award. This accolade is one of Singapore's highest civilian honors and acknowledges Das's efforts in strengthening relationships between nations. His recognition serves as a reminder of the critical role individuals play in building global partnerships.

#### Foot notes:

- Tarun Das, the former Director General of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), has been awarded the prestigious Singapore Honorary Citizen Award for his outstanding contributions to enhancing Singapore-India relations.
- This award is a testament to his tireless efforts in strengthening ties between the two nations through business, youth exchanges, and diplomacy.
- Das is only the second Indian to receive this honor, which recognizes non-Singaporeans who have made significant contributions to the country's growth and development.
- The award was conferred upon him by the Singapore President, acknowledging his pivotal role in fostering a stronger relationship between Singapore and India.
- This recognition is a well-deserved tribute to Das's dedication and commitment to promoting bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

# Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh & Harmanpreet Singh receives Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

Indian sportspersons Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh, and Harmanpreet Singh have been honored with the prestigious Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. Manu Bhaker, a renowned shooter, has consistently excelled in international competitions, bringing laurels to the nation. Chess prodigy D Gukesh has made history with his remarkable performances, cementing his status as a rising star in the global chess arena. Harmanpreet Singh, a stalwart of Indian hockey, has been pivotal in the team's successes on the international stage. This recognition celebrates their outstanding contributions and dedication to Indian sports.

- Young Achievers are making waves, with 18-year-old D Gukesh becoming the youngest world chess champion ever, and 22-year-old Manu Bhaker winning two Olympic medals in shooting.
- Harmanpreet Singh, the Indian men's hockey team captain, has also been recognized for his outstanding performance, having led the team to bronze medals in the Tokyo and Paris Olympics.
- The award ceremony, held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, was a grand affair, with President Droupadi Murmu presenting the awards to the deserving athletes.
- This year's awards also saw a record number of para-athletes being recognized, with 17 out of 32 Arjuna Award winners being from the para-sports category.



• The Khel Ratna Award is the highest sporting honor in India, and it's a testament to the hard work and dedication of these athletes, who have made the country proud with their achievements.

#### Chandigarh University Honored with MAKA Trophy and Arjuna Award

Chandigarh University has been honored with the prestigious MAKA Trophy and the Arjuna Award, recognizing its outstanding contributions to sports and physical education. The MAKA Trophy, awarded by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, acknowledges the university's exceptional achievements in promoting sports and nurturing athletic talent. The Arjuna Award, one of India's highest honors for athletes, further underscores the university's commitment to encouraging excellence in sports. This recognition highlights Chandigarh University's consistent efforts in creating a sports-friendly environment, providing world-class facilities, and fostering young talent. The awards also reflect the university's broader vision to promote physical fitness and sportsmanship among its students.

#### **Foot notes:**

- Outstanding Performance is what earned them this award, and it's a testament to the university's commitment to nurturing talent and promoting achievement.
- The university's student, Sanjay Kumar, who's also a member of the Indian hockey team, received the Arjuna Award for his exceptional skills on the field, making his university proud.
- This award is a big deal, as it acknowledges Sanjay's hard work and dedication to hockey, and it's a great motivation for other students to follow in his footsteps.
- Chandigarh University's focus on sports and extracurricular activities is clearly paying off, and this award is a shining example of their success.
- The university's reputation as a hub for talented individuals is growing, and this recognition will surely attract more students and faculty who share their passion for excellence.

# Mridangist T.V. Gopalakrishnan Honoured With RK Srikantan Trust Award

Renowned mridangist T.V. Gopalakrishnan has been honored with the prestigious R.K. Srikantan Trust Award, recognizing his exceptional contributions to Indian classical music. Known for his mastery of the mridangam and his significant influence on the Carnatic music tradition, this accolade celebrates his decades of dedication to the art form. The award reflects the trust's mission to acknowledge artists who have left an indelible mark on Indian music. Gopalakrishnan's achievements as a performer, teacher, and composer have inspired generations of musicians and music enthusiasts. This recognition further solidifies his legacy as one of the most respected figures in the classical music community.



- He is a renowned mridangam player, known for his exceptional skill and dedication to the craft, having performed with many legendary musicians and participated in numerous music festivals.
- The RK Srikantan Trust Award is a prestigious recognition, given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of music, and Gopalakrishnan's receipt of this award is a well-deserved acknowledgment of his hard work and passion.
- Gopalakrishnan's music career has spanned many decades, during which he has collaborated with numerous artists and has been instrumental in popularizing the mridangam, a traditional Indian drum, among music enthusiasts.
- His award is not only a recognition of his individual achievements but also a celebration of the rich cultural heritage of Indian music, which continues to inspire and influence artists around the world.
- This award will undoubtedly inspire future generations of musicians to follow in Gopalakrishnan's footsteps and pursue their passion for music with dedication and perseverance.

# IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

#### **Indian Army Day is celebrated on 15 January**

Indian Army Day is observed every year on January 15 to honor the sacrifices and achievements of the armed forces. It marks the day when Lieutenant General K. M. Cariappa took over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army. Celebrations include parades, medal ceremonies, and various events across the country. The day serves as a reminder of the dedication and valor of the Indian Army. It is a moment of pride and gratitude for all citizens.

- The day marks the assumption of command by Field Marshal Kodandera Madappa Cariappa as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1949, symbolizing India's post-independence military leadership.
- The 77th Army Day Parade was held in Pune, Maharashtra, featuring a historic display of India's military might, including robotic mules and an all-women NCC contingent.
- The parade showcased the Indian Army's capabilities and contributions to making India a more powerful country, with the theme "Samarth Bharat, Saksham Sena".
- The event honored Lieutenant General KM Cariappa and recognized the sacrifices of Indian soldiers, with the Chief of Army Staff presenting the Sena Medal (Gallantry).
- The parade featured a joint band performance by the Indian Army and Nepal Army, signifying the synergy between the two nations.
- The Indian Army Day celebrations aim to inspire patriotism and respect for the armed forces, with the Army's motto "Service Before Self" resonating strongly during this event.

On January 17, the Indian Navy celebrated the 'Year of Naval Civilians,' highlighting the invaluable contributions of its civilian workforce. This initiative recognizes the critical role civilians play in supporting naval operations, maintenance, and logistics. The celebrations served as a platform to honor their dedication and commitment to the Navy's mission and success. Through this observance, the Navy emphasized the importance of collaboration between uniformed personnel and civilian staff. The event underscored the Navy's gratitude and its efforts to foster an inclusive and cohesive environment for all members of the naval community.

#### **Foot notes:**

- The event was held at the Dr DS Kothari Auditorium, DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi, and it was a proud moment for the Indian Navy.
- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the event, highlighting the importance of naval civilians and their increasing role in the Indian Navy's operations.
- The 'Year of Naval Civilians' is a significant initiative to recognize the contributions of naval civilians to the Indian Navy's growth and development.
- The celebration aimed to promote the welfare and well-being of naval civilians, who play a vital role in supporting the Navy's operations and maintenance.
- The event was a huge success, and it marked an important milestone in the Indian Navy's efforts to appreciate and recognize the hard work and dedication of its civilian personnel.

# **OBITUARY NEWS**

# Retired Hollywood Actress Dalyce Curry passed away

Retired Hollywood actress Dalyce Curry has tragically passed away at the age of 95 due to wildfires in Los Angeles. Curry, known for her memorable roles in classic films, enjoyed a successful career spanning decades. Her death in such circumstances has left her fans and the film fraternity in deep mourning. She was a beloved figure, remembered for her grace, talent, and contributions to cinema. The wildfires have raised concerns about safety and environmental challenges in the region.

- Dalyce Curry, a veteran Hollywood actress, has passed away at the age of 95 due to the devastating Los Angeles wildfires.
- Her home in Altadena was destroyed by the flames, and her remains were found after the fire was extinguished.
- Curry was known for her iconic roles in films like The Blues Brothers and Lady Sings the Blues, leaving a lasting legacy in the entertainment industry.
- She is survived by her great-granddaughter, Dalyce Kelley, who confirmed the news on social media and expressed her devastation over the loss of her "Momma D".
- Curry's death is the second celebrity fatality in the LA fires, following the passing of former child actor Rory Sykes.



• The Hollywood community is mourning the loss of Dalyce Curry, remembering her contributions to the film industry and her inspiring life, and offering condolences to her family and loved ones.

## Filmmaker David Lynch, Known for 'Mulholland Drive' and 'Twin Peaks,' passed away

Filmmaker David Lynch, renowned for his groundbreaking works such as Mulholland Drive and Twin Peaks, has passed away. Known for his distinctive style blending surrealism with psychological depth, Lynch redefined modern cinema and television. His visionary storytelling and unique aesthetic left an indelible mark on the film industry and inspired countless artists. Lynch's works often explored the darker undercurrents of human nature, earning him a devoted global fanbase. His passing marks the end of an era, leaving behind a legacy of cinematic masterpieces.

- Lynch's films often explored the darker side of human nature, blending elements of mystery, neo-noir, and psychological thriller to create a distinct cinematic experience.
- He was a true artist, with a passion for painting, music, and transcendental meditation, which heavily influenced his work and worldview.
- Lynch's impact on popular culture extends beyond his films, with his influence visible in music videos, commercials, and even fashion.
- He is survived by his family, including his daughter Jennifer, and leaves behind a legacy
  of critically acclaimed films and TV shows that will continue to inspire and fascinate
  audiences for generations to come.
- Throughout his career, Lynch received numerous accolades, including an Honorary Academy Award and the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement, a testament to his innovative spirit and contributions to the world of cinema.



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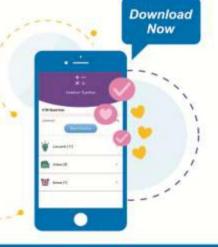
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